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## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

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MARCH 9, 2010

*"From reaching for the ballot box to breaking barriers on athletic fields and battlefields, American women have stood resolute in the face of adversity and overcome obstacles to realize their full measure of success. Women's History Month is an opportunity for us to recognize the contributions women have made to our Nation, and to honor those who blazed trails for women's empowerment and equality."*

-- [Presidential Proclamation on Women's History Month, March 2, 2010](#)

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Every March, Women's History Month pays tribute to the generations of women whose commitment to nature and the planet have proved invaluable to society.

**Writing Women Back into History** is the overarching theme for Women's History Month 2010. This year marks the 30th Anniversary of the [National Women's History Project](#) (NWHP). To commemorate this landmark achievement, the NWHP will use this month to highlight pivotal themes from previous years. Each of these past themes recognizes a different aspect of women's achievements, from ecology to art, and from sports to politics.



### A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

[Watch Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton's Remarks on International Women's Day Message](#) (1:50 min)

## WORKING TOWARDS GENDER EQUALITY

Women's issues are a critical component of the most urgent transnational problems we face today, and they should be on the agenda of everyone, men and women, from the grassroots to the policymaking levels, in political life and beyond. The United States is supporting programs around the globe in order that their voices will be heard. Read U.S. Ambassador Eric G. John's op-ed commemorating International Women's Day. [[English](#) || [Thai](#)]

## WOMEN WHO CHANGED THE WORLD



[Michelle Obama: A Woman of Influence](#) - First Lady Michelle Obama serves as a role model for women who strive to balance their professional careers with their roles as mothers and wives. Not only does her combination of professional and domestic success challenge stereotypical media images of African-American women, but it also serves to demonstrate how women today successfully balance careers with motherhood and marriage.



[Oprah Still Loves School](#) - When Oprah Winfrey was 3 years old, her grandmother taught her to read. When Winfrey walked into a radio station at age 16, she had never thought about becoming a broadcaster, but after reading the news, she was hired on the spot. From there, the poor girl raised on a Mississippi farm won a college scholarship, worked television news jobs, then landed her own talk show and has since become one of the most influential celebrities in the world. Hear from Oprah as she has worked to leverage her love of school to empower girls through education.

[The First Women's Rights Convention](#) - In 1848, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and four other women invited the public to the First Women's Rights Convention where the expanding the role of women in America was discussed. At the end of the two-day conference, 100 people made a public commitment to work together to improve women's quality of life. While women have achieved greater equality with the vote, property rights, and education, this revolution continues today.



[Women at Wars](#) - The limited, but important, roles that women played in the Korean and Vietnam wars paved the way to more expanded -- and in some cases more dangerous -- specialties for women in the military. Chosen from among the over 3,000 collections of women's experiences housed in the Veterans History Project, this interesting selection of stories spans four wars. While many come from nurses' tales, there is also the story of a code breaker (Ann Caracristi), a welder (Meda Brendall), and a flight surgeon (Rhonda Cornum), plus two women who rose through the ranks to secure places in military history books.

## PHOTO GALLERIES AND ONLINE EXHIBITIONS

[U.S. First Lady Michelle Obama Through the Years](#) - U.S. First Lady Michelle Obama grew up in a close-knit, working-class family in a predominantly black neighborhood in Chicago. Raised by parents who were not college graduates, she and brother Craig Robinson were taught early on the value of education. Michelle Obama achieved professional success as a lawyer and hospital executive. In 2003, Michelle Obama was a private citizen married to a little-known Illinois state senator. Her husband's political success has since catapulted her into the national and international spotlight. Follow the First Lady through her life in this insightful photo gallery.



[Women of Our Time](#) - Of all the landmark changes in 20th century America, one of the most significant was the changing role of women and their growing importance in all branches of endeavor. When the century opened, most American women did not even have the right to vote, much less hold public office. But, by its close, all that had changed. The women represented in this innovative exhibition were one way or another affected by this remarkable transformation that was largely shaped by the century's increasingly open-ended environment for achievement by women.

[Women of Influence](#) - This photo gallery offers a glimpse at how women in one country – the United States – have helped shape their society. Their accomplishments are a reminder that all societies benefit from the talents and expertise of women.

## ONLINE READING



[Women of Influence](#) - This collection chronicles how nearly two dozen notable American women broke new ground, some by championing equal rights for all and others by their accomplishments in fields such as government, literature, and even in war.

[Rachel Carson: Pen Against Poison](#) - Rachel Carson was a quiet woman who stirred extraordinary controversy that still persists today, decades after her death. Her 1962 book *Silent Spring* brought worldwide attention to the harm to human health and the environment wrought by mishandling of a powerful pesticide, fomenting the environmental movement.

## VIDEO WEBCHATS

[On the Horizon: Women's History Month](#) - Join the Department of State throughout the month of March as we celebrate Women's History Month by talking with women who are working around the world to make life better for other women. To participate, please go to <https://statedept.connectsolutions.com/womenshistory>. No registration is needed. Simply choose "Enter as a Guest," type in your preferred screen name, and join the discussion. Questions and comments are accepted in advance of, and at any time during, the program. Here is the series schedule:

- **Thursday, March 11 at 13:30 GMT (20:30hrs Bangkok time):** Dr. Andrea Bertone, Director of [Humantrafficking.org](http://Humantrafficking.org), will discuss the challenge of working with local and international anti-trafficking efforts and the lessons she has learned along the way.
- **Tuesday, March 16 at 13:30 GMT (20:30hrs Bangkok time):** [Dr. Sharon Freeman](#) will discuss African American Women's Entrepreneurship.
- **Friday, March 19 at 13:00 GMT (20:00hrs Bangkok time):** Shereen Faraj, who works with the [U.S. Department of State's Office to Monitor Trafficking in Persons \(G/TIP\)](#), will discuss G/TIP's global mission and the lessons and challenges learned in the field of anti-trafficking.
- **Tuesday, March 23 at 13:00 GMT (20:00hrs Bangkok time):** CO.NX invites you to listen to women around the world talk about their experiences and brainstorm with them ways towards women's empowerment.



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